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August 30, 2002

Thomas Krueger
Associate Regional Counsel
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Re: Ellsworth Industrial Park Site

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



265438

Dear Mr. Krueger:

On behalf of Molex, Incorporated, this letter responds to the August 1 general notice letter pertaining to the Ellsworth Industrial Park site. Based on the currently available information, Molex cannot perform or finance an RI/FS at the site. Molex also emphasizes that this conclusion is preliminary because the background investigation by Molex is not complete. In particular, the information in the EPA data room will not be available for review by Molex representatives until September 10.

Molex reached its preliminary conclusion after determining that the available information does not show that Molex is legally responsible under CERCLA for site investigation or cleanup costs. This determination is based on the following information:

- The EPA Phase II investigation did not conclude that Molex is a source. Instead, the investigation simply indicated that Molex may warrant additional investigation as a *possible* TCA source. This conclusion contrasts sharply with the identification in the same report of several other facilities as definite or probable sources of the contaminants observed at the site.
- The substance that EPA associates with the Molex facility (TCA) is not one of the contaminants driving the need for additional site investigation. TCE and PCE drive the need for additional site investigation. TCE and PCE both are in many downgradient drinking water wells in concentrations above their respective MCLs. By contrast, TCA has not been observed above its MCL in any groundwater sample.

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Molex wants to discuss these matters with you after it completes the background investigation. I will call to arrange a meeting at that time. In the meantime, please call me if you have any questions about this response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles T. Wehland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being more prominent and the last name "Wehland" following in a similar style.

Charles T. Wehland